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Mittelenglisches Lesebuch von Friedrich Kluge. Mit Glossar versehen von Arthur Kölbing. Halle a. S. Max Niemeyer. 1904. 8vo, pp. viii, 219. Price, 5 Marks.

In a carefully edited and well printed volume Professor Kluge has included 52 pages (18 selections) of prose and 70 pages (23 selections) of poetry. In range of subject matter the volume compares favorably with Mätzner's *Altenglische Sprachproben* (1867-69), which includes, in two volumes, 11 selections of prose and 38 selections of poetry; not so favorably, perhaps, with Wülcker's *Altenglisches Lesebuch* (1874-80), which contains, in three thin volumes, 16 selections of prose and 64 of poetry. Among the authors or works represented in Wülcker and not in Kluge are Genesis and Exodus, William of Shoreham, Robert Mannyng, King Alisaundre, Richard Coeur-de-Lion, Psalter (mss. Sloane 1853, Harl. 1704), Prayer of Richard de Castre, The Life of Elizabeth, The Vision of Tundale, Owain Miles, Patience, Gower, Hoccleve, Boethius (ms. Royal 18 A XIII), Wyntoun, Harding, William of Palerne, The Destruction of Troy, Chaucer, Lydgate, Morte d'Arthur (Thornton ms.), Lancelot of the Lake, Charles d'Orléans, The Parliament of Love, La Belle Dame Sans Merci, the Coventry and Chester Plays, The Three Kings of Cologne, La Tour Landry, and Merlin, not to mention about fifteen minor poems. On the other hand Kluge includes selections from the Ancren Riwele, Layamon, the Ormulum, Sir Tristrem, and other poems, together with The Soul's Ward, Poema Morale, and King Horn complete, all of which are important alike to the student of literature and the student of language. For Wülcker, it must be remembered, "Altenglisch" meant only the period from 1250 to 1500.

Unlike Mätzner, Morris-Skeat, and Zupitza-Maclean¹, Kluge has not seen fit to add any bibliographical introduction or notes; and this, we believe, is a serious defect. Of course the university professor will supply these as he reads through the book with his class; but a good deal of time will be thus wasted in setting forth matters which might have been disposed of here once for all. Besides saving time, such apparatus would have been useful in

¹ This review was written before the appearance of Professor Emerson's *Middle English Reader*, which Dr. Monroe reviews elsewhere in this number.

showing the state of scholarship at the present time, and would have been immensely useful to the private student. Fifty pages of introductions and notes would not have swollen the book inordinately.

In the case of the prose selections we cannot understand why the lines have not been numbered. In consequence of this lack, Herr Kölbing has been obliged to cite from the prose selections by number and page ! The importance of this omission will be evident at once. If an editor should choose to print privately such a volume for the use of his own pupils, he could of course make it as primitive as he desired ; but in a published volume, intended for use in any institution where English is studied, it is certainly much better to provide such helps as simple common sense has long since suggested.

Another crotchet is the printing of the negative particle *ne* as a part of the following verb. While this is not an important matter, we do not know of any good authority for it, any more than for the printing of *godalmichti* (e. g. p. 23, l. 1 f. b.) or *whenebat* (p. 33, l. 12) as one word. On the other hand, we can see no serious objection to the editor's change of *u* to *v* in conformity with modern usage.

Much space has been saved by printing the poetry in smaller type ; but this gain has been effected at the expense of many pairs of weak eyes that will have to travel through this part of the book as much as the other. The expense of composition in larger type would have been little if any greater.

The references, so far as we have tested them, appear to be correct. The Layamon extract, however, is meagrely labeled "nach der Londoner Hs." Since both mss. are in the British Museum, it should have been explicitly stated that the Leir story is extracted from the older ms., Caligula A ix. Under the Kuckuckslied (p. 75) for *Prononc.* read *Pronunc.* Under King Horn (p. 75) it would have been graceful and by no means superfluous to have referred also to the E. E. T. S. re-edition (1901) by McKnight, Professor Kluge's former pupil, which is assuredly more useful to-day than Wissmann's now antiquated critical edition. Sir Gawayne and the Green Knight (p. 115) was re-edited by Mr. Gollancz in 1897 ; cp. *Mod. Lang. Quarterly* i. 53.

The Glossar seems to be complete and on the whole to be a very creditable piece of work. The arrangement, however, is open to objection. No attempt at etymological alphabetizing can be wholly

satisfactory. It seems to us almost as absurd to arrange M. E. words thus, as it would be to arrange O. E. words in the order in which they would appear in a dictionary of Primitive Teutonic. Why not recognize the independent status, so to speak, of Middle English, just as we do of Modern English, and alphabetize accordingly? Variant spellings would then fall into their places with cross-references to the spelling which the lexicographer preferred to accept as standard.

Some of Kölbing's markings of O. E. long vowels will not meet with universal favor, e. g. *ūpp* (with the doubled *p*), *swīft*, *fēohtan*, *fēohte*, and *-ian*, the suffix of weak verbs of the second class (<*-ōiōn). Concerning *upp* cp. Johansson, *P. B. Bei.* xv. 239-242, Kluge, *Anglia* iv. Anz. 17. It seems likely that both *ūp* and *upp* were found in Old English: we certainly have *ūp* in the words *ūpengel*, *ūpeard*, *ūpende* and in the compounds (or phrases) *ūpahebban*, *ūpastandan*, *ūparēran*, *ūpahōn*, etc.; we probably have *upp* in the adjective *uppe* and the adverbs *uppan*, *uppe*. *Swift* is marked long with a query in Kluge and Lutz's *English Etymology* (1898); since then Kluge seems to have decided that it is long. The connection of the word with *swifan* need not be disputed; but why the *-t* suffix (<*-tō-) was added to the *swif-*, as Kluge insists, rather than to the *swif-*, is not evident. Concerning *fēohtan* cp. Kluge, *Etymol. Wb.*°, Brugmann, *Grundriss der vgl. Grammatik* ii. 1039, Osthoff, *P. B. Bei.* xxvii. 343-353. Kluge's connection of the word with *pūgna* is as little convincing for us to-day as it was for Brugmann in 1892. In marking the *i* of *-ian* long Kluge and Kölbing are, so far as we know, absolutely alone. That the *i* is short has recently been proved by implication by Sievers in *P. B. Bei.* xxix. 561-569. The number of half-lines of the type *sweðrian syððan*, Beowulf 2702, is, it is true, not large; to the three or four cited by Sievers (*Bei.* p. 567) I may add *weorðian Waldend*, Christ 394; *þanciað þrymmes*, Daniel 425; *blētsien blēdum*, Azarias 111. But so far we have observed only three instances where the *i* of *-ian* can be said to form the second syllable of an E-foot $\angle \supset \times \angle$: *blētsian nū*, Genesis 2357a; *blētsige þec*, Azarias 73 (the corresponding line of Daniel, 363, has *þē geblētsige*); *blētsien þec*, Azarias 139; and it is probable that in these lines the text is corrupt. Cp. *blētsien þec, dryhten*, Azarias 145; *blētsige þec, sōðfæst cyming*, Azarias 122a; *blētsien þec þā*

ealle, Azarias 132a ; *blētsien þē þine sacerdos*, Azarias 148a. With regard to the *a-* prefix, which Kölbing, following the conventional view, marks long, see *Philol. Soc. Trans.* 1882-4, pp. 242-244 and *Proc.* p. ii. With all their faults, the earlier sections of the Bosworth-Toller *Dictionary* had at least the one merit of treating this prefix as short. Not the slightest evidence, so far as I am aware, can be adduced for regarding this prefix as long, say in Cynewulf's time ; in a study of this and other prefixes, to be published soon, I hope to present some valid reasons for preferring the heretical view that it is short.

Other points noted are the following : *Boþe* should be referred to O. N. *báðir*. Such words as *zelden*, *zemen*, *zetan*, *heren*, *flemen* and their compounds should be referred not to West Saxon but to Mercian forms (*zeldan*, *zēman*, *zetan*, *hēran*, *fēman*), and it is high time this fact were recognized by makers of glossaries. The article *s. v. flen* should have been split up into two ; it is true that O. E. *fleoƿan* and *fleon* were confused in Middle English, and even in Old English ; but this was not always the case. Through an oversight Kölbing implies that *unhelpe* comes from O. E. *unhælu*. On p. 186, col. 1, l. 5, for *wath* read *wat*. On p. 219 there should have been a cross-reference : Y, see Ʒ. *Sæclian* can hardly be from O. E. *sȳclian* ; nor *onliche* from *œnlic*. The two articles *s. vv. hatenn* and *hoten*, O. E. *hātan*, should have been combined. On p. 160, col. 1, l. 4 f. b., the query about *hatte* as present in meaning is superfluous ; surely numerous instances occur. *Inlawes*, p. 31, l. 13 f. b., seems better taken as = 'inlaws,' verb, opposite of 'outlaws' ; one other instance is cited by Mätzner and Stratmann-Bradley ; cp. also *inlage* 'sugest à la lei le rei,' Glossary of Old Law Terms (ms. Cott. Jul. D. vii), also cited by S.-B. We see no reason for supposing that *sechen*, Poema Morale 118, means anything other than 'seek, look for.' *Wi*, Poema Morale 90, should have been entered *s. v. whi* ; it is extremely common in the same sense in Modern English. Finally, it is hardly necessary to query *wynterwele*, Frühlingslied 1, 11, when its antonym *wynterwo* is found so near, l. 8.

Notwithstanding, however, the minor criticisms which we have felt called upon to make, the book will be received with gratitude by students who desire to work on accurate texts of representative M. E. literature not otherwise easily accessible. It is the first

Lesebuch since Mätzner's time which attempts to cover the M. E. field as we use the term to-day ; and it reflects no discredit on that scholarship in which Germany has so long led the world, and which sets so high a standard for the workers in other lands.

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A Middle English Reader, edited, with Grammatical Introduction, Notes, and Glossary, by Oliver Farrar Emerson. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1905. Pp. cxx, 475.

For some years teachers have felt the need of a new adequate edition of Middle English texts. Mätzner's *Sprachproben* has long been out of print. Morris and Skeat's *Specimens of Early English*, Part I, has not been revised since 1887.¹ MacLean's adaptation of Zupitza's *Übungsbuch*, admirable as far as it goes, is, for Middle English, not sufficiently comprehensive. Sweet's *Primers* are likewise too limited in scope. There is accordingly plenty of room for Professor Emerson's book.

Here we have an excellent selection of texts. The extracts are not mere scraps, but are long enough most of them to be self-explanatory and to awaken some interest not only in the language but also in the substance. In this latter respect also there is good variety. They range in date from the late *Chronicle* to Chaucer, and exemplify five principal dialects, Midland, Northern, Southern, Kentish, and the dialect of London.

Departing from the practice of previous editors, Professor Emerson groups his texts not according to date but according to dialect. The book is practically a Midland English reader ; the Midland dialect is regarded as a norm, to which the others are subordinated. There are, for example, 125 pages of Midland texts, 40 of Northern, 44 of Southern including Kentish, and 20 of the Midland dialect of London. Words are entered in the glossary under their

¹ A third edition is mentioned in the advertising pages at the back of certain Clarendon Press books, but, I believe, has not yet appeared.